

INDEPENDENT **The Labor Advocate** **NON-PARTISAN** A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL Official Organ of The Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity ISSUED WEEKLY

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE

CINCINNATI, OHIO, MAY 26, 1917.

The Passing of Puchta.

When Geo Puchta was a candidate for office he said, "If I am elected, union labor will have no complaint." This was intended to inspire trade unionists with the idea that he would be absolutely fair to them, but the record made by his administration in striving to crush union labor in Cincinnati is worse than the combined efforts of the five mayors who preceded him.

He is a member of the National Metal Trades Association and was loyal to their cause.

He appointed Friedlander, another member of the Metal Trades Association, as Safety Director, who at the slightest provocation used the entire Police Department as strike-breakers.

At Oakley the police talked to the strikers and coaxed them to leave their organization and return to work under the old conditions, thereby attempting to cause dissension in the ranks of the machinists in the interest of the Metal Trades Association.

During the strike of the teamsters, the wagons of the Queen City Supply Company, of which Puchta is president, were hauling meat for the company that the strike was against.

During the Kroger strike the mounted police were taken away from Fairmount and other parts of town to follow Kroger wagons for eighteen hours a day.

A committee of the Building Trades Council called upon Puchta and asked him to use his good offices in having union labor secure the work on a certain contract. He promised to help them and requested that they return in a week. When the committee again appeared in his office, the mayor said, "Well boys, I did my part, Henkel and Sullivan promised me not to advertise in Chicago for any more non-union labor and I believe that is a step forward."

Nevertheless scab labor completed the work. Those members of union labor that were unfortunate enough to be arrested will testify to the brutal manner which they were beat up in the third degree department of Puchta's administration.

Judging from the daily press, Puchta was strongly pro-German, as he expected to be a candidate for re-election. He refused to help in the enlistment of men; he refused to invite Marshall Joffe to visit Cincinnati, and did other things, which made the leaders yield to the demand of the rank and file and name an American candidate in his place.

If Puchta did nothing else to make him unpopular with the rank and file the Nimmo case was sufficient.

Puchta and Nimmo are both Masons, and a Mason's first duty is to rush to the assistance of a brother in distress. Puchta knew that Nimmo was surrounded by enemies, both of the craft and the profane. Did he rush to Nimmo's assistance? He did not, but he paved the way for Friedlander to get revenge and officially slaughtered Nimmo in cold blood, but the Masons of Cincinnati sympathized with Nimmo which is shown in the sudden withdrawal of Puchta.

In so far as union labor is concerned, they are happy that the same leaders who put Puchta in the mayors' chair also put him out, for his administration has left a trail of slime in the interest of the scab.

In a Hole.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's contribution to the discussion of peace is a speech which satisfied nobody in or out of Germany, himself included.

It is a virtual confession that he is in a hole and is afraid to do anything but hedge. His excuse for not stating frankly Germany's terms is that such a course, whether conciliatory and yielding or aggressive and looking to conquest, would inspire the allies to a continuance of the war.

But it is clear that what he is afraid of is not the effect of such a statement on Germany's enemies, but the effect on Germany herself. He is between the devil of Prussian autocracy and the deep sea of German socialism. If he declares for annexation and indemnities he may be swept away by the latter; if he abandons the place in the sun and the vast ambitions with which Germany set out, the former may turn upon him.

He is undoubtedly in a difficult position politically, and yet if he could have said to the allies what he said to Russia, he would not only have strengthened faith in his sincerity in that new democracy, but he might have put up to Germany's antagonists a rather embarrassing proposition.

Some Beautiful Weather.

The month of May is now happily set in the course of reform. It appears disposed to grant full and acceptable reparation for the insults of the past.

It has not only hit the sawdust trail, but is remaining in the fair and sunny course without giving the "follow-up workers" any difficulty whatever. This is more than can be said of some of Billy Sunday's converts. The forecast is promising, adding the prophecy of still warmer temperature.

Puchta Should Quit Kidding.

After the Rapid Transit election, Mayor Puchta announced through his official organ that the big vote was an endorsement of his administration, and that he would be a candidate for re-election, and he was egotistical enough to think that the party would give him another chance to fight union labor for four years more, but the rank and file refused to stand for it and Puchta was pushed out.

Once More.

Summer got the bulge on spring and the straw hat happened.

The Word About Liberty Bonds.

It is true that the Liberty Loan is a test of the patriotism of the American people. It is also a test which the people will meet. They have already approved a step which is in reality a severer test, and that is the selective conscription.

The Americans are less accustomed to the call for money than they are to the call to arms. Broadly speaking they have been doing nothing with money for the past hundred years at least except make it and spend it.

The Liberty Loan and the demands which surely will follow it, is about the first real test of the kind put upon the rank and file of the American people.

It may take them a little while fully to realize what such a call means.

But when this is realized, they will respond. The rock of public credit has been touched by the wand of patriotism, and the streams will gush forth plentifully enough when they get started.

Get on the bond wagon now.

The Dear Boy Needs Justice.

The Thaw family having succeeded in obtaining Harry's admission to a Philadelphia insane asylum, it is understood that the legal battle for the dear boy's release will not begin before tomorrow.

Spring Cleaning.

Dan Cupid's cleaning house today
In fickle Betty's heart,
For summer guests he's making way,
All others must depart.

Some Newspaper.

Washington says that the "Official Bulletin" is unique. You bet it is, it's the only paper touching the public utilities companies, and its columns are as cheerful as a funeral—ours went in the waste basket.

Some Warlike Moves.

The straw-hat brigade has been repulsed by General Winter's last line, but we expect to hear of a counter-attack later in the week.

Better Late Than Never.

Mayor Puchta is getting very patriotic, judging from his published proclamations, but they come too late.

Americans Ueber Alles.

E. W. Edwards sounded the keynote of the coming campaign when he said, "No Germans wanted," and the Republican ticket proves it.

It Will Come.

Spring hasn't made a separate peace yet, but she is fraternizing with the hostile forces of General Winter.

That's a Question.

But if whiskey is banned how can our generals get the kind that Grant used?

Must Have Stole Him.

Villa may be still alive, but it's a cinch that Pershing "got" his press agent.

Let 'Em Rave.

Shooting the bull on the bulletin board seems to be a new game with some of our daily papers.

Well After That—What?

Admitting that marriage is a great institution—who wants to live in an institution?

It Looks That Way.

Judging by the price of groceries one would think they were fighting with them in Europe.

Keep Your Eyes Open.

Women love to pretend; so if one of them closes her eyes when you kiss her, beware the other man.

Easy Work.

The allies are taking in prisoners for a living.

Like June, 1916.

The Roosevelt deadlock in Congress is strongly reminiscent of the Chicago convention.

Watch Out.

Indications are that this is going to be a busy season for your neighbor's chickens.

Only Drunks Buy It.

Some folks are such pacifists that they won't even read the War Cry.

Oh Horrors!

Ye that have T—R's prepare to shed them now.

Let 'er Sleep.

Awaken China, turns over for another nap.

Watch the Umpire.

Spring seems to be trying to steal home from first base.

May Need Them.

We sincerely hope that the Roosevelt Legion will take the Ninth Cavalry along.

Human Nature.

It is becoming evident that the only perfect and just tax, is the one the other fellow pays.

Let us be potatroids.

What hoe?

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CENSORED NEWSPAPERS REJECTED BY SENATE.

Washington.—The senate, by a vote of 48 to 34, has stricken censorship of the press from the administration's spy bill. Censorship was removed from the bill previously, by a vote of 39 to 38, but the bare majority against a muzzled press encouraged advocates of this plan to attempt to reinstate the provision, but their last defeat is emphatic.

The question will now be settled by conferees representing both branches of congress, as the house has passed legislation regulating the press. The spy bill, as passed by the senate, empowers the post-office department to suppress "treasonable publications."

DUNCAN GOES TO RUSSIA.

Washington.—President Wilson has appointed James Duncan, first vice-president of the A. F. of L., a member of the commission which the United States will send to Russia. The other members of the commission are: Elihu Root, former secretary of state, chairman of the commission; Charles R. Crane, now in Russia on a diplomatic mission; John R. Mott, Y. M. C. A. official, New York; Cyrus McCormick, Chicago business man; Samuel R. Berton, New York banker; Charles Edward Russell, journalist; Major General Scott, United States Army, and Rear Admiral Glennon, United States Navy.

WANT UNIFORM RATE.

Wilmington, Del.—Because they were refused a wage increase of 10 cents an hour, members of Carpenters' Union No. 625 suspended work. The present rate of 45 cents is 10 cents lower than the nearby city of Chester, Pa., and 15 cents less than that paid in Philadelphia.